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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

TWIN HARBORS WATERKEEPER,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	COMPLAINT
	)	
ROGNLIN’S, INC. (C&A FACILITY),	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This action is a citizen suit brought under Section 505 of the Clean Water Act (“CWA”) as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1365. Plaintiff, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper (“Twin Harbors”), seeks a declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, the imposition of civil penalties, and the award of costs, including attorneys’ and expert witnesses’ fees, for Defendant Rognlin’s, Inc.’s repeated and ongoing violations of the terms and conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit authorizing certain stormwater discharges of pollutants from Rognlin’s, Inc.’s Concrete and Asphalt (C&A) facility (hereafter “the C&A facility”) in Aberdeen, Washington to navigable waters.

## II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Twin Harbors' claims under Section 505(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Sections 309(d) and 505(a) and (d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d) and 1365(a) and (d), authorize the relief Twin Harbors requests.

3. Under Section 505(b)(1)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A), Twin Harbors notified Rognlin's, Inc. of its violations of the CWA and of Twin Harbors' intent to sue under the CWA via letter postmarked June 2, 2023 ("Notice Letter"). A copy of the Notice Letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit 1. The allegations in the Notice Letter are incorporated herein by this reference. In accordance with section 505(b)(1)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A) and 40 C.F.R. § 135.2(a)(1), Twin Harbors notified the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the Administrator of EPA Region 10, and the Director of the Washington Department of Ecology ("Ecology") of its intent to sue Rognlin's, Inc. by mailing copies of the Notice Letters to these individuals on June 2, 2023.

4. At the time of the filing of this Complaint, more than sixty days have passed since the Notice Letter and copies thereof were issued in the manner described in the preceding paragraph.

5. The violations complained of in the Notice Letter are continuing and/or are reasonably likely to re-occur.

6. At the time of the filing of this Complaint, neither the EPA nor Ecology has commenced any action constituting diligent prosecution to redress the violations alleged in the Notice Letter.

7. The source of the violations complained of is in Grays Harbor County, Washington, within the Western District of Washington, and venue is therefore appropriate in

the Western District of Washington under Section 505(c)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(1), and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

### III. PARTIES

8. Twin Harbors is suing on behalf of itself and its members.

9. Twin Harbors is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Washington. Twin Harbors is dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment of Washington State, especially the quality of its waters. Twin Harbors is a membership organization and has at least one member who is injured by Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations.

10. Twin Harbors has representational standing to bring this action. Twin Harbors' members are reasonably concerned about the effects of discharges of pollutants, including stormwater from the C&A facility, on water quality and aquatic species and wildlife that Twin Harbors' members observe, study, use, and enjoy. Twin Harbors' members are further concerned about the effects of discharges from the C&A facility on human health. In addition, discharges from the C&A facility lessen Twin Harbors' members' aesthetic enjoyment of nearby areas. Twin Harbors has members who live, work, fish, and recreate around or use the Chehalis River which is affected by Rognlin's, Inc.'s discharges. Twin Harbors' members' concerns about the effects of Rognlin's, Inc. discharges are aggravated by Rognlin's, Inc.'s failure to record and timely report information about its discharges and pollution controls in a timely manner. The recreational, scientific, economic, aesthetic, and/or health interest of Twin Harbors and its members have been, are being, and will be adversely affected by Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations of the CWA. The relief sought in this lawsuit can redress the injuries to these interests.

11. Twin Harbors has organizational standing to bring this action. Twin Harbors has been actively engaged in a variety of educational and advocacy efforts to improve water quality and to address sources of water quality degradation in the waters of Western Washington,

1 including the Chehalis River. As detailed herein and in the Notice Letter, Rognlin's, Inc. has  
2 failed to comply with numerous requirements of its NPDES permit including compliance with  
3 water quality standards, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan maintenance, monitoring,  
4 recordkeeping, and permit violation reporting requirements. As a result, Twin Harbors is  
5 deprived of information necessary to properly serve its members by providing information and  
6 taking appropriate action to advance its mission. Twin Harbors' efforts to educate and advocate  
7 for greater environmental protection, and to ensure the success of environmental restoration  
8 projects implemented for the benefit of its members are also obstructed. Finally, Twin Harbors  
9 and the public are deprived of information that influences members of the public to become  
10 members of Twin Harbors, thereby reducing Twin Harbors' membership numbers. Thus, Twin  
11 Harbors' organizational interests have been adversely affected by Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations.  
12 These injuries are fairly traceable to Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations and are redressable by the Court.

13 12. Rognlin's, Inc. is a corporation authorized to conduct business under the laws of  
14 the state of Washington.

15 13. Rognlin's, Inc. owns and operates an eight-acre facility that stages crushed  
16 concrete and asphalt for construction projects and is located at or about US Hwy 105 & Charley  
17 Creek Rd Aberdeen, WA 98520 (referred to herein as "the C&A facility").

18 14. Rognlin's, Inc. owns a separate facility, Rognlin's, Inc. Equipment Shop, subject of a  
19 separate lawsuit. This facility is also in Aberdeen, WA, but at different location and subject to a  
20 different NPDES permit.

#### IV. LEGAL BACKGROUND

15. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants by any person, unless in compliance with the provisions of the CWA. A discharge of a pollutant from a point source to waters of the United States without authorization by a NPDES permit, issued under Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, is prohibited.

16. The state of Washington has established a federally approved state NPDES program administered by Ecology. Wash. Rev. Code § 90.48.260; Wash. Admin. Code ch. 173-220. This program was approved by the Administrator of the EPA pursuant to Section 402(b) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(b).

17. Under Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, Ecology has repeatedly issued iterations of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit, most recently on November 20, 2019, effective January 1, 2020, and set to expire December 31, 2024 (the “2020 ISGP Permit”). The previous permit was issued December 3, 2014, became effective January 2, 2015, and expired December 31, 2019 (the “2015 ISGP Permit”). The 2015 ISGP Permit and 2020 ISGP Permit (collectively, “the Permit”), contain substantially similar requirements and authorize those that obtain coverage thereunder to discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity, a pollutant under the CWA, and other pollutants contained in the stormwater to waters of the United States subject to certain terms and conditions.

18. The Permit imposes certain terms and conditions on those covered thereby, including requirements for monitoring and sampling of discharges, reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and restrictions on the quality of stormwater discharges. To reduce and eliminate pollutants in stormwater discharges, the Permit requires, among other things, that permittees develop and implement best management practices (“BMPs”) and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (“SWPPP”), and apply all known and reasonable methods of prevention,

1 control, and treatment (“AKART”) to discharges. The specific terms and conditions of the  
2 Permit are described in detail in the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated  
3 herein by this reference.

#### 4 **V. FACTS**

5 19. Ecology granted Rognlin’s, Inc. coverage for its C&A facility under the 2015  
6 ISGP Permit under Permit number WAR002714. Ecology granted subsequent coverage to  
7 Rognlin’s, Inc. for its C&A facility under the 2020 ISGP Permit under the same permit number,  
8 WAR002714.

9 20. The C&A facility discharges stormwater and pollutants associated with industrial  
10 activity to the Chehalis River via ditches.

11 21. Rognlin’s, Inc. is engaged in industrial activities at the C&A facility, including  
12 staging and supplying concrete and asphalt services, among others. The C&A facility has  
13 multiple distinct points of discharge where stormwater and other pollutants leave the facility and  
14 eventually enter the Chehalis River.

15 22. Rognlin’s, Inc. has violated and continues to violate the “effluent limitations and  
16 standards” under the CWA by violating its NPDES Permit. 33 U.S.C. 1365(a)(1) and (f)(7).  
17 Rognlin’s, Inc.’s violations of the Permit are set forth in sections I through V of the Notice Letter  
18 attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and are incorporated herein by this reference. In particular, and  
19 among the other violations described in the Notice letter, Rognlin’s, Inc. has violated the Permit  
20 by failing to comply with water quality standards, failing to comply with AKART standards,  
21 failing to implement BMPs to control water quality, failing to implement corrective actions,  
22 failing to establish and implement an adequate SWPPP, failing to collect quarterly samples,  
23 failing to correctly and timely submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (“DMRs”), failing to  
24

1 correctly submit Annual Reports, failing comply with visual monitoring requirements, failing to  
2 record information, failing to retain records, and failing to report Permit violations.

3 23. Rognlin's, Inc. discharges stormwater from the C&A facility containing levels of  
4 pollutants that exceed the benchmark values established by the Permit and is likely to continue  
5 discharging comparable levels of pollutants in its stormwater.

6 24. Rognlin's, Inc. is discharging stormwater containing levels of pollutants that  
7 exceed the benchmark values established by the Permit, including the days on which Rognlin's,  
8 Inc. collected samples, and is likely to continue discharging comparably unacceptable levels of  
9 pollutants in its stormwater.

10 25. Rognlin's, Inc.'s stormwater discharges are causing or contributing to violations  
11 of water quality standards and therefore violate Permit Condition S10.A. Discharges from the  
12 C&A facility contribute to the polluted conditions of the waters of the state, including the water  
13 quality standards of the Chehalis River. Discharges from the C&A facility contribute to the  
14 ecological impacts that result from the pollution of these waters and to Twin Harbors and its  
15 members' injuries resulting therefrom. These requirements and Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations  
16 thereof are described in detail in section I.A of the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1,  
17 and incorporated herein by this reference.

18 26. Condition S10.C of the Permit requires Rognlin's, Inc. C&A to apply AKART to  
19 all discharges, including preparation and implementation of an adequate SWPPP and BMPs.  
20 Rognlin's, Inc. violated and continues to violate Permit Conditions S10 and S3 by not  
21 developing, modifying, and/or implementing BMPs in accordance with the requirements of the  
22 Permit, and/or by not applying AKART to discharges from the C&A facility, including by  
23 storing creosote logs outside without berming or a cover, observed by Twin Harbors during a site  
24 visit on June 22, 2023. These requirements and Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations thereof are described

1 in detail in section I.B and section II of the Notice Letter, attached as Exhibit 1, and incorporated  
2 herein by this reference.

3 27. Condition S3.A of the Permit requires Rognlin's, Inc. to have and implement a  
4 SWPPP that is consistent with Permit requirements, fully implemented as directed by Permit  
5 conditions, and updated as necessary to maintain compliance with permit conditions. Rognlin's,  
6 Inc. has violated these requirements of the Permit each and every day for the last five years and  
7 continues to violate them because its SWPPP is not consistent with Permit requirements. For  
8 example, Rognlin's, Inc.'s SWPPP does not adequately describe the C&A facility, activities,  
9 BMPs, has not been fully implemented, and has not been updated as necessary. These  
10 requirements and Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations thereof are described in detail in section II of the  
11 Notice Letter, attached as Exhibit 1, and incorporated herein by this reference.

12 28. Rognlin's, Inc. has violated and continues to violate the monitoring requirements  
13 of Permit Conditions S4, S7, and S9. Permit Condition S4.B requires Rognlin's, Inc. to sample  
14 its stormwater discharges once during every calendar quarter at each distinct point of discharge  
15 offsite except for substantially identical outfalls. However, Rognlin's Inc. has failed and is  
16 failing to monitor discharges from multiple distinct points of discharge. Instead, the stormwater  
17 monitoring results that Rognlin's, Inc. routinely submits to Ecology fail to contain sample results  
18 for each distinct point of the C&A facility's stormwater discharges. Rognlin's, Inc. has also  
19 failed to collect and analyze stormwater samples in accordance with Permit Condition S4.A at  
20 both Monitoring Point 1 and 2 each and every quarter since first quarter 2018. Rognlin's, Inc. is  
21 falsely reporting "no discharge" on each and every DMR for samples from the facility, despite  
22 reportedly sending in a stormwater sample to a lab for analysis in the first quarter of 2023.  
23 Rognlin's, Inc. failed to submit DMRs by the prescribed deadline for the second quarter of 2019,  
24 third quarter of 2019, fourth quarter of 2019, first quarter of 2022, second quarter of 2022, fourth



1 quarter of 2022, first quarter of 2023, and second quarter of 2023. Rognlin's, Inc. failed to  
2 comply with visual monitoring requirements required by Permit Condition S7 by failing to  
3 conduct Industrial Stormwater Monthly Inspection Reports by qualified personnel every month  
4 from at least January 2018 through December 2022. Rognlin's, Inc. failed and continues to fail to  
5 submit an Annual Report for 2018, as required by Permit Condition S9. Additionally, Rognlin's,  
6 Inc. has failed to submit an Annual Report by the prescribed deadline of May 15 of the following  
7 year for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, as required by Permit Condition S9. These DMR  
8 submittals, Annual Report submittals, and monitoring and inspection requirements, and Rognlin,  
9 Inc.'s violations are described in section III of the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1,  
10 and incorporated herein by this reference. All these violations are reasonably likely to recur.

11         29. Rognlin's, Inc. has failed and continues to fail to comply with recording  
12 requirements of Permit Condition S4.B. Rognlin's, Inc. does not record and retain specified  
13 information for each stormwater sample taken, including the sample date and time, a notation  
14 describing if Rognlin's, Inc. collected the sample within the first 30 minutes of stormwater  
15 discharge event, an explanation of why Rognlin's, Inc. could not collect a sample within the first  
16 30 minutes of a stormwater discharge event, the sample location, method of sampling and of  
17 preservation, and the individual performing the sampling, as required by the Permit condition.  
18 These requirements and Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations thereof are described in section IV.A of the  
19 Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated herein by this reference. These  
20 violations are reasonably likely to recur.

21         30. Rognlin's, Inc. has failed and continues to fail to comply with record keeping  
22 requirements of 2015 ISGP Permit Condition S9.C, and 2020 Permit Condition S9.D. Rognlin's,  
23 Inc. does not retain for a minimum of five years a copy of the current Permit, a copy of  
24 Rognlin's, Inc. C&A's coverage letter, records of all sampling information, inspection reports

including required documentation, any other documentation of compliance with permit requirements, all equipment calibration records, all BMP maintenance records, all original recordings for continuous sampling instrumentation, copies of all laboratory results, copies of all required reports, and records of all data used to complete the application for the Permit, as required by the Permit Conditions. These requirements and Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations thereof are described in section IV.B of the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated herein by this reference. These violations are reasonably likely to recur.

31. Condition S9.E of the 2015 ISGP Permit and S9.F of the 2020 ISGP Permit require Rognlin's, Inc. to take certain actions, including reporting to Ecology, in the event Rognlin's, Inc. is unable to comply with any terms and conditions of the Permit which may endanger human health or the environment. Rognlin's, Inc. has failed to comply with these requirements of the Permit by failing to report and subsequently correct permit violations, including each and every time Rognlin's, Inc. failed to sample a stormwater discharge at its facility and discharges of stormwater with an amount of pollutants in excess of the Permit benchmarks as described above in paragraphs 24 and 28.

32. Rognlin's, Inc. failed to provide Twin Harbors a copy of its SWPPP within fourteen days of Twin Harbors' request contained in the Notice Letter, as required by Permit Condition G.

## VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

33. The preceding paragraphs and the allegations in the Notice Letter attached hereto as Exhibit 1 are incorporated herein.

34. Rognlin's, Inc.'s violations of the Permit described herein and in the Notice Letter constitute violations of "effluent standards or limitations" under the CWA per 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1) and (f)(7).

1           35.     No agency has taken an enforcement action constitution diligent prosecution or  
2 otherwise precluding claims under 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319 or 1365(a).

3           36.     Prior notice of violations and claims was provided to Rognlin's, Inc. and others as  
4 required.

5           37.     These violations committed by Rognlin's, Inc. are ongoing or are reasonably  
6 likely to continue to occur. Any and all additional violations of the Permit and the CWA which  
7 occur after those described in Twin Harbors' Notice Letter, but before a final decision in this  
8 action, should be considered ongoing violations subject to this Complaint.

9           38.     Without the imposition of appropriate civil penalties and the issuance of an  
10 injunction, Rognlin's, Inc. is likely to continue to violate the Permit and the CWA to the further  
11 injury of Twin Harbors, its members, and others.

12                               **VII.   RELIEF REQUESTED**

13           Wherefore, Twin Harbors respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

14           A.     Issue a declaratory judgment that Rognlin's, Inc. has violated and continues to be  
15 in violation of the Permit and the CWA;

16           B.     Enjoin Rognlin's, Inc. from operating the C&A facility in a manner that results in  
17 further violations of the Permit and the CWA;

18           C.     Order Rognlin's, Inc. to immediately implement a SWPPP that complies with the  
19 2020 ISGP Permit at the C&A facility;

20           D.     Order Rognlin's, Inc. to allow Twin Harbors to participate in the development and  
21 implementation of Rognlin's, Inc.'s SWPPP and compliance plan;

22           E.     Order Rognlin's, Inc. to provide Twin Harbors, for a period beginning on the date  
23 of the Court's Order and running for three years after Rognlin's, Inc. achieves compliance with  
24 all of the conditions of the Permit, with copies of all reports and other documents which

Rognlin's, Inc. submits to Ecology regarding Rognlin's, Inc.'s coverage under the Permit at the C&A facility at the time these documents are submitted;

F. Order Rognlin's, Inc. to take specific actions to remediate the environmental harm caused by its violations;

G. Order Rognlin's, Inc. C&A to pay civil penalties of \$64,618 per day of violation for each violation committed by Rognlin's, Inc., pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d) and 1365(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 19 and 19.4;

H. Award Twin Harbors its litigation expenses, including reasonable attorneys' and expert witness fees, as authorized by Section 505(d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), and any other applicable authorization; and

I. Award such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 6th day of September 2023

**SMITH & LOWNEY, PLLC**

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## Exhibit 1

**SMITH & LOWNEY**  
\_\_\_\_ PLLC \_\_\_\_  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

June 1, 2023

**Via Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested**

Managing Agent  
Rognlin's, Inc.  
US Hwy 105 & Charley Creek Rd  
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Managing Agent  
Rognlin's, Inc.  
321 W State St  
Aberdeen, WA 98520

**Re: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT AND  
REQUEST FOR COPY OF STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN**

Dear Managing Agent:

We represent Twin Harbors Waterkeeper, P.O. Box 751, Cosmopolis, WA 98537, (206) 293-0574. Any response or correspondence related to this matter should be directed to us at the letterhead address. This letter is to provide you with sixty days' notice of Twin Harbors Waterkeeper's intent to file a citizen suit against Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility, under section 505 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1365, for the violations described below. This letter is also a request for a copy of the complete and current stormwater pollution prevention plan ("SWPPP") required by Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit.

Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility was granted coverage under the Industrial Stormwater General Permit ("ISGP") issued by the Washington Department of Ecology ("Ecology") effective January 2, 2015 and expired on December 31, 2019, under NPDES No. WAR002714 (the "2015 Permit"). Ecology granted Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility coverage under the current iteration of the ISGP effective January 1, 2020, set to expire on December 31, 2024 (the "2020 Permit"), which maintains the same permit number: WAR002714.

Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated and continues to violate effluent standards and limitations under the CWA (see 33 U.S.C. § 1365(f)) including the terms and



conditions of the 2015 Permit and the 2020 Permit (collectively, the “Permits”) with respect to operations of, and discharges of stormwater and pollutants from its facility located at or about US Hwy 105 & Charley Creek Rd Aberdeen, WA 98520 as described herein, to the Chehalis River. The facility subject to this notice includes any contiguous or adjacent properties owned or operated by Rognlin’s, Inc.

## **I. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE STANDARDS**

### **A. Compliance with Water Quality Standards**

Condition S10.A of the Permits prohibits discharges that cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards. Water quality standards are the foundation of the CWA and Washington’s efforts to protect clean water. In particular, water quality standards represent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and Ecology’s determination, based on scientific studies, of the thresholds at which pollution starts to cause significant adverse effects on fish or other beneficial uses. For each water body in Washington, Ecology designates the “beneficial uses” that must be protected through the adoption of water quality standards.

A discharger must comply with both narrative and numeric criteria water quality standards. WAC 173-201A-010; WAC 173-201A-510 (“No waste discharge permit can be issued that causes or contributes to a violation of water quality criteria, except as provided for in this chapter.”). Narrative water quality standards provide legal mandates that supplement the numeric criteria. Furthermore, the narrative water quality standard applies with equal force even if Ecology has established a numeric water quality standard. Specifically, Condition S10.A of the Permits requires that Rognlin’s, Inc.’s concrete and asphalt facility’s discharges not cause or contribute to an excursion of Washington State water quality standards.

Rognlin’s, Inc.’s concrete and asphalt facility discharges to the Chehalis River. Rognlin’s, Inc.’s concrete and asphalt facility discharges stormwater that may contain elevated levels of turbidity, pH, oil sheen, copper, zinc, lead, and NWTPHDx. However, Rognlin’s, Inc.’s concrete and asphalt facility has failed to sample and analyze any of its stormwater discharges. These discharges cause and/or contribute to violations of water quality standards, in the Chehalis River, and have occurred each and every day for the last five years on which there was 0.1 inch or more of precipitation, and continue to occur. *See* WAC 173-201A-260 (including toxics and aesthetics criteria); WAC 173-201A-240 (toxic substances); WAC 173-201A-240 (including criteria for copper and zinc); WAC 173-201A-210 (including criteria for turbidity); and WAC 173-201A-200 (use designations for fresh water)

### **B. Compliance with AKART Standards**

Condition S10.C of the Permits requires Rognlin’s, Inc.’s concrete and asphalt facility to apply all known and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment (“AKART”) to all discharges, including preparation and implementation of an adequate SWPPP and best management practices (“BMPs”). Rognlin’s, Inc.’s concrete and asphalt facility has violated and continues to violate these conditions by failing to apply AKART to its discharges or to implement an adequate SWPPP and BMPs as described below in this Notice of Intent to Sue.

Condition S1.A of the Permits requires that all discharges and activities authorized be consistent with the terms and conditions of the Permits. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated these conditions by discharging and acting inconsistent with the conditions of the Permits as described in this Notice of Intent to Sue.

## **II. STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN VIOLATIONS**

Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is in violation of the Permits' SWPPP provisions as follows:

1. Condition S3.A of the Permits requires Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to develop and implement a SWPPP that contains specified components. Condition S3.A.2 of the 2015 Permit and Condition S3.A.1 of the 2020 Permit requires the SWPPP to specify BMPs necessary to provide AKART and ensure that discharges do not cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated these requirements of the Permits each and every day for the last five years and continues to violate them as it has failed to prepare and/or implement a SWPPP that includes AKART BMPs and BMPs necessary to comply with state water quality standards.

2. Condition S3.A of the Permits requires Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to have and implement a SWPPP that is consistent with permit requirements, fully implemented as directed by permit conditions, and updated as necessary to maintain compliance with permit conditions. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated these requirements of the Permits each and every day for the last five years and continues to violate them because its SWPPP is not consistent with permit requirements, has not been fully implemented, and has not been updated as necessary.

3. The SWPPP fails to satisfy the requirements of Condition S3 of the Permits because it does not adequately describe BMPs. Condition S3.B.4 of the Permits requires that the SWPPP include a description of the BMPs that are necessary for the facility to eliminate or reduce the potential to contaminate stormwater. Condition S3.A of the Permits requires that the SWPPP include BMPs consistent with approved stormwater technical manuals or document how stormwater BMPs included in the SWPPP are demonstratively equivalent to the practices contained in the approved stormwater technical manuals, including the proper selection, implementation, and maintenance of all applicable and appropriate BMPs. *See Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*, July 2019, <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/Permits/Flare/2019SWMMWW/Content/Resources/DocsForDownload/2019SWMMWW.pdf>. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with these requirements because it does not adequately describe BMPs and does not include BMPs consistent with approved stormwater technical manuals nor does it include BMPs that are demonstratively equivalent to such BMPs with documentation of BMP adequacy.

4. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP fails to satisfy the requirements of Condition S3.B.2 of the Permits because it fails to include a facility assessment as mandated. The SWPPP fails to include an adequate facility assessment because it does not



describe the industrial activities conducted at the site, the general layout of the facility including buildings and storage of raw materials, the flow of goods and materials through the facility, regular business hours, and seasonal variations in business hours or in industrial activities as required.

5. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP fails to satisfy the requirements of Condition S3.B.1 of the Permits because it does not include a site map that identifies significant features, the stormwater drainage and discharge structures, the stormwater drainage areas for each stormwater discharge point off-site, a unique identifying number for each discharge point, each sampling location with a unique identifying number, paved areas and buildings, areas of pollutant contact associated with specific industrial activities, conditionally approved non-stormwater discharges, surface water locations, areas of existing and potential soil erosion, vehicle maintenance areas, and lands and waters adjacent to the site that may be helpful in identifying discharge points or drainage routes.

6. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP fails to comply with Condition S3.B.2.b of the Permits because it does not include an inventory of industrial activities that identifies all areas associated with industrial activities that have been or may potentially be sources of pollutants as required. The SWPPP does not identify all areas associated with loading and unloading of dry bulk materials or liquids, outdoor storage of materials or products, outdoor manufacturing and processing, onsite dust or particulate generating processes, on-site waste treatment, storage, or disposal, vehicle and equipment fueling, maintenance, and/or cleaning, roofs or other surfaces exposed to air emissions from a manufacturing building or a process area, and roofs or other surfaces composed of materials that may be mobilized by stormwater as required by these conditions.

7. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with Condition S3.B.2.c of the Permits because it does not include an adequate inventory of materials. The SWPPP does not include an inventory of materials that lists the types of materials handled at the site that potentially may be exposed to precipitation or runoff and that could result in stormwater pollution, a short narrative for material describing the potential for the pollutants to be present in stormwater discharge that is updated when data becomes available to verify the presence or absence of the pollutants, a narrative description of any potential sources of pollutants from past activities, materials and spills that were previously handled, treated, stored, or disposed of in a manner to allow ongoing exposure to stormwater as required. The SWPPP does not include the method and location of on-site storage or disposal of such materials and a list of significant spills and significant leaks of toxic or hazardous pollutants as these permit conditions require.

8. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with Condition S3.B.3 of the Permits because it does not identify specific individuals by name or title whose responsibilities include SWPPP development, implementation, maintenance, and modification.

9. Condition S3.B.4 of the Permits requires that permittees include in their SWPPPs and implement mandatory BMPs. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is in violation of this

requirement because it has failed to include in its SWPPP and implement the mandatory BMPs of the Permits.

10. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with Condition S3.B.4.b.i of the Permits because it does not include required operational source control BMPs. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility fails to include operation source control BMPs in the following categories: good housekeeping (including the definition of ongoing maintenance and cleanup of areas that may contribute pollutants to stormwater discharges, and a schedule/frequency for each housekeeping task); preventive maintenance (including BMPs to inspect and maintain stormwater drainage, source controls, treatment systems, and plant equipment and systems, and the schedule/frequency for each task); spill prevention and emergency cleanup plan (including BMPs to prevent spills that can contaminate stormwater, for material handling procedures, storage requirements, cleanup equipment and procedures, and spill logs); employee training (including an overview of what is in the SWPPP, how employees make a difference in complying with the SWPPP, spill response procedures, good housekeeping, maintenance requirements, and material management practices, how training will be conducted, the frequency/schedule of training, and a log of the dates on which specific employees received training); inspections and recordkeeping (including documentation of procedures to ensure compliance with permit requirements for inspections and recordkeeping, identification of personnel who conduct inspections, provision of a tracking or follow-up procedure to ensure that a report is prepared and appropriate action taken in response to visual monitoring, definition of how Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility will comply with signature and record retention requirements, and certification of compliance with the SWPPP and Permit). Some of the BMPs that Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is failing to implement, as evidenced by the October 28, 2021 Inspection Report, include:

- Failure to prevent turbid runoff from contaminating the surrounding area;
- Failure to prevent debris from contaminating the surrounding area;
- Failure to prevent erosion and stabilize exposed soils on-site resulting in rills at the facility; and
- Failure to maintain the unpaved yard, such as adding a new layer of crushed rock or paving the yard.

11. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with Condition S3.B.4.b.i.7 of the Permits because it does not include measures to identify and eliminate the discharge of process wastewater, domestic wastewater, noncontact cooling water, and other illicit discharges to stormwater sewers or surface waters and ground waters of the state, including failing to prevent solids from entering the stormwater and discharging off-site.

12. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with Condition S3.B.4.b.ii of the Permits because it does not include required structural source control BMPs to minimize the exposure of manufacturing, processing, and material storage areas to rain, snow, snowmelt, and runoff.

13. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP does not comply with Condition S3.B.4.b.iii of the Permits because it does not include treatment BMPs as required.

14. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP fails to comply with Condition S3.B.4.b.v of the Permits because it does not include BMPs to prevent the erosion of soils or other earthen materials and prevent off-site sedimentation and violations of water quality standards.

15. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's SWPPP fails to satisfy the requirements of Condition S3.B.5 of the Permits because it fails to include a stormwater sampling plan as required. The SWPPP does not include a sampling plan that: identifies points of discharge to surface waters, storm sewers, or discrete ground water infiltration locations; documents why each discharge point is not sampled; identifies each sampling point by its unique identifying number; identifies staff responsible for conducting stormwater sampling; specifies procedures for sampling collection and handling; specifies procedures for sending samples to the a laboratory; identifies parameters for analysis, holding times and preservatives, laboratory quantization levels, and analytical methods; and specifies the procedure for submitting the results to Ecology.

### **III. MONITORING AND REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

#### **A. Failure to Collect Quarterly Samples**

Conditions S4.A and S4.B of the Permits require Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to collect and analyze a sample for all parameters of its stormwater discharge once during every calendar quarter. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility violated this requirement by failing to collect and analyze stormwater samples for Monitoring Point 001 and 002 during each and every quarter for at least the last five years.

Condition S4.B.2.c of the 2015 Permit and S4.B.3.a of the 2020 Permit require Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to collect stormwater samples at each distinct point of discharge offsite except for substantially identical outfalls, in which case only one of the substantially identical outfalls must be sampled. These conditions set forth sample collection criteria but require the collection of a sample even if the criteria cannot be met. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has multiple distinct points of discharge where stormwater is leaving the facility that it is not sampling and analyzing appropriately. There are other points of stormwater discharge from the facility and Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is in violation of these conditions of the Permits by failing to collect and analyze samples from them during every quarter for the last five years.

#### **B. Failure to Correctly and Timely Submit Discharge Monitoring Reports**

Condition S9.A of the 2015 Permit and Condition S9.B of the 2020 Permit require Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to use Discharge Monitoring Report ("DMR") forms provided or approved by Ecology to summarize, report and submit monitoring data to Ecology. For each monitoring period (calendar quarter) a DMR must be completed and submitted to Ecology not later than 45 days after the end of the monitoring period. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated these conditions by failing to submit a DMR within the time prescribed for the second quarter of 2019, third quarter of 2019, fourth quarter of

2019, first quarter of 2022, second quarter of 2022, fourth quarter of 2022, and first quarter of 2023.

**C. Failure to Report Correct Sample Data on DMRs**

Condition G20 of the Permits requires Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to promptly submit relevant facts in a permit application or in any report to Ecology when it becomes aware that it failed to submit such facts or information. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated this condition each and every quarter for the last five years by submitting DMRs that report no discharge. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has been made aware of these failures to submit correct and accurate sample data on its DMRs as documented by the October 28, 2021 Inspection Report.

In addition, Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility submitted an Electronic Submission Cover Letter with an attestation agreed to at signing for each and every DMR for the last five years that states, "I had the opportunity to review the content or meaning of the submittal before signing it; and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete. I intend to submit this information as part of the implementation, oversight, and enforcement of a federal environmental program. I am aware there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including possible fines and imprisonment." Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility could be subject to significant criminal penalties for submitting false sample data.

**D. Failure to Correctly Submit Annual Reports**

Condition S9.B of the 2015 Permit and Condition S9.C of the 2020 Permit require Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to submit a complete and accurate Annual Report to Ecology no later than May 15th of each year. The Annual Report must include corrective action documentation as required in Condition S8.B–D of the Permits. If a corrective action is not yet completed at the time of submission of the Annual Report, Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility must describe the status of any outstanding corrective action. Specific information to be included in the Annual Report is identification of the conditions triggering the need for corrective action, description of the problem and identification of dates discovered, summary of any Level One, Two, or Three Corrective Actions completed during the previous calendar year, including the dates corrective actions completed, and description of the status of any Level 2 or 3 Corrective Actions triggered during the previous calendar year, including identification of the date Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility expects to complete corrective actions. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated and continue to violate this condition by failing to submit an Annual Report for 2018 and 2022. Additionally, Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has failed to submit an Annual Report by the prescribed deadline for 2019, 2020, and 2021.

**E. Failure to Comply with Visual Monitoring Requirements**

Condition S7.A of the Permits requires that a monthly visual inspection be conducted at the facility by qualified personnel. Condition S7.B of the Permits requires each inspection to

include observations made at stormwater sampling locations and areas where stormwater associated with industrial activity is discharged; observations for the presence of floating materials, visible oil sheen, discoloration, turbidity, odor, etc. in the stormwater discharges; observations for the presence of illicit discharges; a verification that the descriptions of potential pollutant sources required by the permit are accurate; a verification that the site map in the SWPPP reflects current conditions; and an assessment of all BMPs that have been implemented (noting the effectiveness of the BMPs inspected, the locations of BMPs that need maintenance, the reason maintenance is needed and a schedule for maintenance, and locations where additional or different BMPs are needed). Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility has violated and continues to violate these requirements because, for the last five years, it has failed to conduct each of the requisite visual monitoring and inspections each and every month.

Condition S7.C of the Permits requires that Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility record the results of each inspection in an inspection report or checklist that is maintained on-site and documents the observations, verifications, and assessments required. The report/checklist must include the time and date of the inspection; the locations inspected; a statement that, in the judgment of the person conducting the inspection and the responsible corporate officer, the facility is either in compliance or out of compliance with the SWPPP and the Permits; a summary report and schedule of implementation of the remedial actions Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility plans to take if the site inspection indicates that the facility is out of compliance; the name, title, signature and certification of the person conducting the facility inspection; and a certification and signature of the responsible corporate officer or a duly authorized representative. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is in violation of these requirements because, for the last five years, it failed to prepare and maintain the requisite inspection reports or checklists and failed to make the requisite certifications and summaries.

#### **IV. VIOLATIONS OF THE RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS**

##### **A. Failure to Record Information**

Condition S4.B of the Permits requires Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility record and retain specified information for each stormwater sample taken, including the sample date and time, a notation describing if Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility collected the sample within the first 30 minutes of stormwater discharge event, an explanation of why Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility could not collect a sample within the first 30 minutes of a stormwater discharge event, the sample location, method of sampling and of preservation, and the individual performing the sampling. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is in violation of these conditions as it has not recorded each of these specified items for each sample taken for the last five years.

##### **B. Failure to Retain Records**

Condition S9.C of the 2015 Permit and S9.D of the 2020 Permit require Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to retain for a minimum of five years a copy of the current Permit, a copy of Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility's coverage letter, records of all sampling information, inspection reports including required documentation, any other documentation of

compliance with permit requirements, all equipment calibration records, all BMP maintenance records, all original recordings for continuous sampling instrumentation, copies of all laboratory results, copies of all required reports, and records of all data used to complete the application for the Permit. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility is in violation of these conditions because it has failed to retain records of such information, reports, and other documentation for the last five years.

## **V. FAILURE TO REPORT PERMIT VIOLATIONS**

Condition S9.E of the 2015 Permit and Condition S9.F of the 2020 Permit require Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility to take certain actions in the event it is unable to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the Permits which may endanger human health or the environment or exceed any numeric effluent limitation in the permit. In such circumstances, Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility must immediately take action to minimize potential pollution or otherwise stop the noncompliance and correct the problem, and Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility must immediately notify the appropriate Ecology regional office of the failure to comply. Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility must then submit a detailed written report to Ecology, including specified details, within 5 days of the time Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility became aware of the circumstances unless Ecology requests an earlier submission.

Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility routinely violates these requirements, including each and every time it failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the Permits which may endanger human health or the environment.

## **VI. REQUEST FOR SWPPP**

Pursuant to Condition S9.F of the 2015 Permit and Condition S9.G of the 2020 Permit, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper hereby requests that Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility provide a copy of, or access to, its SWPPP complete with all incorporated plans, monitoring reports, checklists, and training and inspection logs. The copy of the SWPPP and any other communications about this request should be directed to the undersigned at the letterhead address.

Should Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility fail to provide the requested complete copy of, or access to, its SWPPP as required by Condition S9.F of the 2015 Permit and Condition S9.G of the 2020 Permit, it will be in violation of that condition, which violation shall also be subject to this Notice of Intent to Sue and any ensuing lawsuit.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

The above-described violations reflect those indicated by the information currently available to Twin Harbors Waterkeeper. These violations are ongoing. Twin Harbors Waterkeeper intends to sue for all violations, including those yet to be uncovered and those committed after the date of this Notice of Intent to Sue.



Under Sections 309(g)(2)(A) and 404(s)(4) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d) and 1344(s)(4), each of the above-described violations subjects the violator to a penalty of up to \$64,618 per day for each violation. In addition to civil penalties, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper will seek injunctive relief to prevent further violations under Sections 505(a) and (d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a) and (d), and such other relief as is permitted by law. Also, Section 505(d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), permits prevailing parties to recover costs, including attorney's fees.

Twin Harbors Waterkeeper believes that this NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE sufficiently states grounds for filing suit. We intend, at the close of the 60-day notice period, or shortly thereafter, to file a citizen suit against Rognlin's, Inc.'s concrete and asphalt facility under Section 505(a) of the Clean Water Act for violations.

During the 60-day notice period, we would be willing to discuss effective remedies for the violations addressed in this letter and settlement terms. If you wish to pursue such discussions in the absence of litigation, we suggest that you initiate those discussions within 10 days of receiving this notice so that a meeting can be arranged and so that negotiations may be completed promptly. We do not intend to delay the filing of a complaint if discussions are continuing when the notice period ends.

Sincerely,

**SMITH & LOWNEY, PLLC**

By: s/Savannah Rose  
Savannah Rose  
Richard A. Smith

cc: Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. EPA  
Casey Sixkiller, Region 10 Administrator, U.S. EPA  
Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology